
VICTORIAN ENTOMOLOGIST

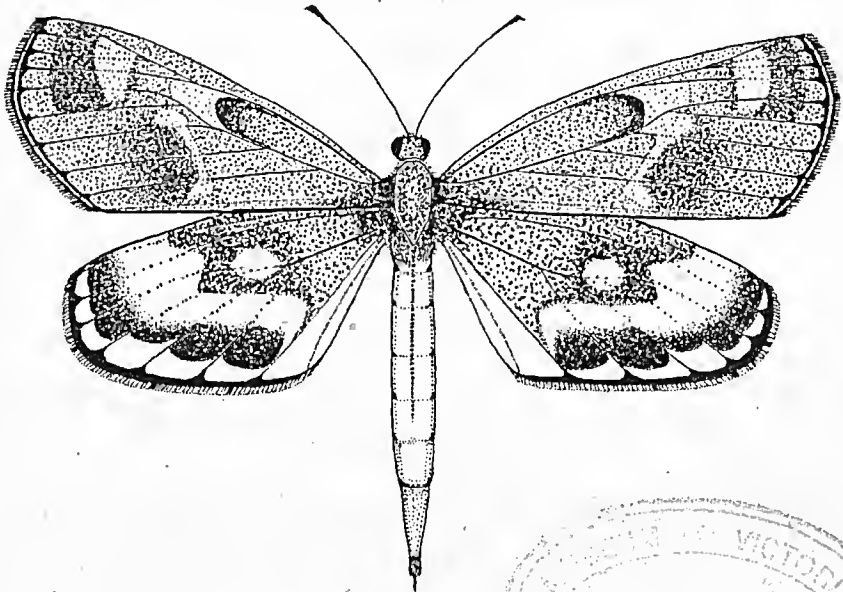


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News Bulletin of The Entomological Society of Victoria Inc.

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA (Inc)

MEMBERSHIP

Any person with an interest in entomology shall be eligible for Ordinary membership. Members of the Society include professional, amateur and student entomologists, all of whom receive the Society's News Bulletin, the Victorian Entomologist.

OBJECTIVES

The aims of the Society are:

- (a) to stimulate the scientific study and discussion of all aspects of entomology,
- (b) to gather, disseminate and record knowledge of all identifiable Australian insect species,
- (c) to compile a comprehensive list of all Victorian insect species,
- (d) to bring together in a congenial but scientific atmosphere all persons interested in entomology.

MEETINGS

The Society's meetings are held at La Trobe University, 2nd Floor, Room 2.29, 215 Franklin Street, Melbourne (Opposite the Queen Victoria Market) Melway reference Map 2F B1 at 8 p.m. on the third Friday of even months, with the possible exception of the December meeting which may be held earlier. Lectures by guest speakers or members are a feature of many meetings at which there is ample opportunity for informal discussion between members with similar interests. Forums are also conducted by members on their own particular interest so that others may participate in discussions.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Ordinary Member	\$20.00 (overseas members \$22)
Country Member	\$16.00 (Over 100 km from GPO Melbourne)
Student Member	\$12.00
Associate Member	\$ 5.00 (No News Bulletin)

Associate Members, resident at the same address as, and being immediate relatives of an ordinary Member, do not automatically receive the Society's publications but in all other respects rank as ordinary Members.

Cover design by Alan Hyman.

Cover illustration: The pale Sun Moth, *Synemon selene* Klug, is an endangered species restricted to perennial grassland dominated by *Austrodanthonia* in Western Victoria. It is now extinct in SA, and was presumed extinct in Vic. until its rediscovery, in February 1991, by the late Frank Noelker and Fabian Douglas. The Victorian Populations are parthenogenetic with all specimens comprising females, a most unusual trait in the Castniidae. Illustration by Michael F. Braby.

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING 11 APRIL 2003

Meeting opened at 8.10 pm

Present: I. Endersby, A. Kellehear, D. Stewart, J. Tinetti, P. Carwardine, G. Weeks, R. McMahon, M. Endersby, R. Vagi, K. Walker, P. Marriott.

Apologies: D. Dobrosak, C. Peterson, K. Dunn, E. Grey, Glaister, and T. New, R. Field

Minutes: Minutes of the 13/12/03 meeting [*Vic Ent* 33(1): 1] were accepted. M: G. Weeks, S: R. McMahon

General Business:

Membership applications have been received from J. Booth, G. Mason and Bert Orr

Speaker: The president, Prof Allan Kellehear, presented his address. He focussed on changes in the society over his serving time and challenges for the future. In particular he noted the steady membership numbers and the society's contribution to the wider entomological society through initiatives such as the Le Souëf award. These factors, together with the existence of a long serving council indicate that the society continues to be a viable organization. To maintain this situation we continue to need an active council, to encourage a more active membership and to pursue more members. He thanked council members for their work and support and extended special thanks to Danny Dobrosak for his work as editor of the newsletter.

After thanks to the speaker from the chair there was general discussion about the strengths of the society and possible initiatives and directions for the coming year.

Meeting closed 9.25pm

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 11 APRIL 2002

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Apologies: D. Dobrosak, C. Peterson, K. Dunn, E. Grey, A. Glaister, T. New, R. Field

Minutes: Minutes of 2002 AGM [*Vic Ent* 32(3): 29] were accepted. M: D. Stewart S: P. Carwardine

Treasurer's report:

- A report will be published in the April edition of the journal
- The treasurer noted that there was no hall hire as premises are courtesy of Latrobe University
- Account balances are quite high and there is no need to alter subscriptions

The report was accepted M: I. Endersby. S: P. Carwardine.

Editor's report:

The current editor cannot stand for the position, but will assist the incoming editor until the end of 2003.

There was a motion of thanks to Danny Dobrosak for his contributions to the society as editor for the last ten years. M: I. Endersby S: P. Carwardine

General business:

- The Entrees, Conservation and Le Souëf Award committees were not active in 2002 and therefore there are no committee reports
- Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships for Dr Ross Field and Dr Ken Walker were accepted
- Annual Elections: office and council positions were declared vacant
- A motion of thanks to A. Kellehear for his work as President for seven years was passed. M: I. Endersby S: R McMahon
- Nominations from the floor were called for. The following positions were filled.

President: D. Stewart M: K. Walker S: P. Carwardine
Vice President: P. Marriott M: K. Walker S: P. Carwardine
Hon. Treasurer: I Endersby M: K. Walker S: G. Weeks
Hon. Editor: R. McMahon M: P. Carwardine S: K. Walker
Hon Secretary: J. Tinetti M: P. Carwardine S: R McMahon
Public Officer: I Endersby M: K. Walker S: A. Kellehear
Councillors: P. Carwardine M: A. Kellehear S: D. Stewart
K. Walker M: P. Carwardine S: A. Kellehear
A. Kellehear will continue on council as immediate past president
Excursion Officer: P. Carwardine M: A. Kellehear S: R. McMahon

- K. Walker will investigate meeting venue at the Museum
- Sid Cowling was elected as auditor M: I. Endersby, S: P. Marriott

Meeting closed at 10.12pm.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING, 16 MAY, 2003

Meeting opened 8.02pm.

Present:, D. Dobrosak, A. Kellehear, D. Stewart, P. Carwardine, P. Marriott, K. Walker.

Apologies: I. Endersby, J. Tinetti, R. McMahon

Correspondence:

- Email forwarded by Ian Endersby from C. Chadwick on positive suggestions for obtaining *Vic Ent* contributions. Council will act on the suggestions.

Treasurer's Report:

The following information was forwarded by Ian Endersby: Account balances are: General account \$7210; Le Souëf account \$3727.

Editor's Report:

D. Dobrosak reported that he will produce the June issue and assist the new editor in taking over the role in the next few issues. 500 envelopes were purchased. Sufficient articles are in hand for June issue.

President's Report:

As incoming president I wish to thank on behalf of the society all past council members for their past outstanding efforts in both maintaining the high standard of and interest provided by the meetings and in particular the production of *Victorian Entomologist*.

Dr Allan Kellehear for his outstanding leadership and guidance of the Society and for facilitating the meeting room location. Daniel Dobrosak for his unparalleled contribution as editor. Ian Endersby for his roll as treasurer, public officer, efforts in liaising with speakers and for his valuable, entertaining and educational discussion at numerous meetings. Jan Tinetti for undertaking the onerous task of secretary. Peter Carwardine for his long service to the Society in organising excursions. Thank you to all these individuals for their continuing service to Council in the varying roles.

I wish to welcome to the Council Peter Marriott as vice president, Ray McMahon as editor and Dr Ken Walker as Councillor.

General Business:

1. It was moved to co-op D. Dobrosak to Council. *M:D. Stewart, S: A.Kellehear.*
2. Contact details were exchanged for Council members. D. Dobrosak to update the details on the inside back cover of *Vic. Ent.*
3. Members to be encouraged to bring exhibits to general meetings. This was a feature of meetings in the past that was welcome but has fallen off in recent years.
4. Allan Kellehear will be leaving Australia in September this year to take up an overseas position. Allan's last meeting with the society will be in August at the present meeting room.
5. Council endorsed the creation of a Web Master for the society. Daniel Dobrosak was nominated for this position. *M:K. Walker, S: A.Kellehear.*
6. Location of future meetings: Peter Carwardine advised of a Melbourne City Council list of meeting rooms available in the Melbourne CBD. Peter agreed to investigate further and obtain details on room sizes, hire fee and facilities. Ken Walker advised that a meeting room was available at Museum Victoria for General Meetings. Details of the location of the August meeting will be published in the August *Vic Ent.*
7. Discussion was held on speakers for future general meetings. Various councillors will report back at the next General Meeting on possible speakers.
8. It was agreed that an introductory talk on a specific topic or insect group will be held after the main speaker at each General Meeting. The first will be on Arctiidae – Tiger Moths on 15th August by Peter Marriott.
9. It was agreed that the next council meeting would brainstorm locations for the distribution of pamphlets about the society including the 2003 speaker program and estimate how many were to be duplicated and supplied to councillors for distribution.
10. Peter Carwardine agreed to investigate an excursion for October 2003 at Gembrook or Anglesea. The June General Meeting to decide the preferred location and whether it will be Saturday or Sunday.

Meeting closed 9:28pm

THE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VICTORIA
The past five years and the next five years

Allan Kellehear, PhD.

I was elected your president in mid-1996. I came to this position after only a couple of years serving on the council. The society had just made the rather traumatic move from the National Science Centre at Clunies Ross House in Parkville. When I joined the society some two years earlier, meetings contained a strong mix of professionals and amateurs. Much has changed since those mid-1990s and I would like to take the opportunity in this, my outgoing address, to reflect on the changes my council and I have witnessed in that time, and to reflect on the future challenges for the membership and incoming council.

The Past Five Years for VicEnt

At this present time, I have served with an editor who has occupied this role for some 10 years. Our treasurer has served for some 12 years. I may even be one of the longest-serving presidents (7 yrs) the society has witnessed for several decades. I would still offer to serve if I did not accept an offer from the University of Tokyo to be their 2003/04 Visiting Professor of Australian Studies. This job opportunity means that not only must I take leave from my usual chair at La Trobe University but also the position of president of this society. I mention the longevity involved in these key positions - and what it takes to leave one of them - because this tendency for longevity in the matter of office bearing has become one of the central problems of the society. Let me give you some history.

The problem of our Clunies Ross meeting venue was solved by re-locating to La Trobe University - first to their Carlton campus, and later when the university sold that location, to their new campus here in Franklin Street in Melbourne's CBD. There were some initial problems for people finding the new location/s. And almost at the outset we had to tackle entry problems for members simply because the university did not leave the university buildings unlocked after hours. Meeting attendance fluctuated and we appealed to, and obtained from members, good patience and forbearance on more than one occasion.

The minutes will show that despite early fluctuations the attendance level has remained more or less steady over the past 10 years or so. Although some meetings have seen less than 7 or 8 people, popular talks have attracted up to 20 or so people - a good roll up for a society with about 40 or so metropolitan members. Over that same period, it should be noted, our membership level has also remained steady at around 100 to 110.

There has been a significant number of members who have retired, died, or moved interstate but these have been supplemented with fresh members both retired and young, both metropolitan and country. Our Bulletin has attracted continued interest and praise locally and internationally. There has been good interest in trading our bulletin with equivalent ones in several countries overseas. Danny Dobrosak has been an excellent, patient and fair editor in a job that frequently tests the character and patience of all but the most saintly. We have weathered complaints, scholarly disputes, and fluctuating levels of contribution and still our members, and many besides, complement us on our 'journal'. Not bad for the bulletin of an amateur society.

And our membership is strong. Many hobbyist societies have closed through falling numbers. Nowadays people find they are too busy, or there are too many calls on their finances, their

weekends or their evenings to devote to small societies dedicated to individual sciences or crafts. Small societies have amalgamated with larger ones. Others become 'journal clubs'; their bulletins become newsletters, and then simply letters. But we have maintained a good and steady level of membership and the attendance, while variable, still swells for an interesting talk on aquatic beetles for example. The popular interest in insects prevails if the steady state of our society is any indication.

The composition of council, however, has been another matter altogether. Each year at our AGM, our dedicated treasurer and society stalwart - Ian Endersby - gives the same appeal to the membership for some active participation. Here we have asked, sometimes virtually begged the membership to consider coming some extra evenings to serve on council. We struggle to fill office-bearing positions until, over the years, ever so incrementally, each of the current incumbents feels the dedication turn to burden. We on the council are like you: we love the study of insects for aesthetic or scientific reasons or both. We love to attend the odd interesting talk. We love the opportunity to meet with professional members to benefit from their advanced training and experience. We love to read about our favourite insect or its habitat or new food plant in the bulletin. But these things only happen because members of council organize these events and experiences.

In the early years, many professional entomologists ran the society, ran it well, and ran it long. Like the present members of council, many professionals have served for long years and feel that they have genuinely 'served their time' for the society. A short history of our society will testify to the truth of that sentiment in almost every case. We look now, as we have in the past, for more involvement from the amateur sections of the membership. Professionals themselves value the amateur member, their collections, observations and experience. They do so because entomological history is full of amateur contributions to the science and the profession. There is a collegiality between amateur and professional that owes its roots to science history as much as its shared field experience and personal excitement. We all have a role to play in the society as well as in the pursuit of our own interests.

Some Highlights

During the past 5 years our council has made several serious attempts to boost membership and interest in our activities. We have attempted to reach a broader audience and attract interest from a wider cross-section of society. We advertised in local papers and even in the Age newspaper for a while. Quite a few of us remember the Melbourne comedian Rod Quantock (a.k.a. Captain Snooze) who 'crashed' our meeting in the late 1990s with a bus load of paying travelers. They filed into the back seats of our Carlton lecture hall and listened respectfully, threw a few quips and questions to the speaker of the day, and filed back into their bus and disappeared into the night as quickly as they arrived. They had heard about our talk from The Age item.

Over the years I have designed my occasional addresses to stimulate curiosity from anyone with just a passing interest in insects. I had also hoped to add to our scientific interest with sociological information about the role of insects by describing and reflecting on their influence on our music, art, history, science fiction and humour. On many an occasion in my work-a-day world of palliative care I have met colleagues who have heard about a "Kellehear" who spells his name the same as I do but speaks "somewhere in Melbourne about insects in art"! Clearly the topics attracted a certain notoriety if not necessarily the contents of the talks themselves.

We have also re-designed our public relations pamphlet. We revised and contextualised our appeals to those interested in science, excursions and trapping techniques to include comments about our broader interests in ecology, in friendly and intimate meetings, and in the aesthetics and

gardening matters to do with insects. We have tried to re-emphasize the excitement of collecting and of collecting *together*. We distributed these in science bookshops and entomological supplies outlets. We promoted the society where and when we could.

In this context we were annually represented at the Victorian schools 'Science Talent Search Competitions', making sure we supported a small prize every year to encourage junior interest, if not directly in the society's work, then at least the enduring objects of the society's interests - insects and their habitats. We have developed, and continue to update, a web page for those whose general interests take them to 'surfing the net'. This web page has been an important source of new members, of general inquiry, and of contact from overseas interests.

Our successes have not been limited to our attempts at social outreach. These have undoubtedly been important to keeping membership levels constant despite regular turnover and changing and uncertain times for small societies. We have contributed to the wider entomological community through administering the Zoo Le Seouf award over the years. And the distinguished membership of some of our council has been recognized through the award of Honorary Life Membership to Peter Carwardine and to the recent award to Ian Endersby of the Australian Natural History Medallion in November last year.

The Ongoing Challenge

But our successes have not extended to attracting our own members to serve on council. And, to put it rather bluntly, we need to make progress in this task.

An interested and satisfied membership NEEDS an active council with drive, initiative and direction. It is important to the life and survival of any society to have at its helm a council that is responsive to the needs of its members. Most basically, a society must have a small group of its own membership willing to take part of the responsibility, part of the time, to running of it. This is one of the major challenges any society faces but it is somewhat ironic that a society as stable and as healthy as ours wants for participation. So what may be some of the barriers to active membership?

For those for whom time is a precious commodity there are few satisfying replies. Let me simply say that the current council members do not have lives spent mainly lying back with a beer on St Kilda beach. Every one of the current council have extremely busy lives, most engaged in full-time work and balancing family, work and commuting to squeeze-fit the council obligations into the fine spaces between these times. All council members do their current work because despite rival commitments, time pressures and personal styles, the actual work can be genuinely satisfying.

Councilors continue to contribute because, despite any myths to the contrary, council work can also be enjoyable. Council members are friendly people with diverse interests and personalities. Some have expertise rivaling professional specialists. Others, like myself, barely rate as amateurs and are best described as 'interested parties'. Some people on council are extremely shy and others quite extroverted. Some of us live in the suburbs of Melbourne but I have commuted from Geelong and now Castlemaine for meetings. David Stewart has traveled from the Mornington Peninsula area for meetings.

As the minutes do show, we have participated in delightful planning sessions for interesting excursions; overseen some controversial editorial intrigue and debate; deliberated on awards; planned and invited speakers for the general meetings; and tried to problem-solve our public relations worries. You win some, you lose some. But we have always been in good company with each other; always shared a joke and a personal problem with each other; always worked in the best

interests of the society as a whole and the best we were able as simple volunteers on behalf of you - the membership.

But Danny cannot keep the journal going for another decade as he has in the past decade. Ian will not comb the figures indefinitely for us. Jan Tinctti will not always be there to answer correspondence for us and keep the minutes. And I am now off to Tokyo.

There has been a suggestion made by a number of members over the years that we should amalgamate with the Field Naturalist Society of Victoria - to become an Entomological Interest group of their society. And if membership were flagging or if attendance simply plummeted, this might have some merit. But our major problem is the low level of active membership. However, if we are unable to find ANYONE to do a little work for the society this will need to be an option to seriously explore with that or any other related society.

I have always believed that amalgamation with another society would be a great pity indeed, not because other societies are less worthy of our support - not at all - but because the Entomological Society of Victoria is an old, distinguished and well supported society in its own right. One cannot say that it *deserves* support because in reality it has that support. It is rather the type of support that is at the centre of our concerns. My forced departure from the presidency has highlighted this problem for the council and consequently the wider membership. I bring this problem before you in this address to hear, and later to read, and most importantly to consider and act upon.

Are you able to help?

The Next Five Years for VieEnt

What are the challenges that lie ahead for the society over the next few years and to which council members will need to exercise their efforts? I guess the first major challenge is to not take for granted that our membership levels will remain stable. I do actually think these levels *will* remain more or less stable but the point to emphasize is that I believe we can do better. As the population ages we have an increasingly significant proportion of our society that have more leisure time. At this time of life people tend to devote themselves to activities that a busy work and family life did not allow. Retirement can bring more travel, more time in the garden, greater social activity. But for other people it can bring greater isolation, less income and increased physical or health restrictions. In either scenario, joining society's like our own can be very appealing. We are very inexpensive to join. Our activities are social and friendly and the interest and collection of insects complements a variety of related interests from gardening and ecology to aesthetics, pest management and farming. Our activities provide people with a fine opportunity to meet others and to share a broad range of interests. But we do need to plan and target our public relations and activities as well as our advertising towards this population.

Students are also a crucial source of support and membership and we have much to offer them as well. We can support a growing professional or hobby interest. Our networks can arrange meetings with professionals. We can organize excursions that provide privileged access such as, for example, after-hours visits to the museum. Most members also have a wealth of personal experience with one type or another of the many families/species of insects and can support interest in quite a variety of esoteric groups. Those students can and should come from our primary and secondary schools but they should also come from our undergraduates and postgraduates from universities. We are yet to really take up the challenge of membership drives in these kinds of settings. And young people, like young people everywhere and in every social context, are our future.

To facilitate the challenge of appealing to a broader membership we need to plan our talks and activities that appeal and reflect the interests of those kinds of groups. In one way, this means that active council membership from young people and retirees will be very important to supporting our imagination and creativity in future planning activities. Collaborations with other societies - in general meetings or in joint excursions - will be very important. But those joint activities might not be with other entomological societies but perhaps simply with social clubs, photography clubs or horticultural societies. Crucial to this challenge will be the ongoing commitment to encouraging an active membership. The old adage about cooking remains true - you get as good as you put in. The more active the involvement, the more fun to be had, the lighter the load to bear, the brighter the future holds, the more satisfying the involvement for everyone.

On a perhaps less grandiose matter, there remains a pressing need for the society to find a solution to the problem of accessible premises. We have made several attempts to find alternative premises that are affordable, centrally located, have basic infrastructure to permit us use of overhead projectors and similar equipment and has easy after-hours access. The present council has explored several avenues but has so far been unable to find satisfactory alternatives to the rather restricted access of the city campus of La Trobe University. This will remain a challenge for the new council.

A Parting Reflection & Acknowledgment

I would like to place on record to the membership my grateful thanks to the Council of VicEnt over the last five or six years of my work with them. In particular, I pay public tribute to Danny Dobrosak for his dedication and professionalism in producing the bulletin in the spirit of a technical journal. His family and he have put countless hours into the preparation and mailing of that bulletin and Danny has balanced this with several serious job changes and re-locations. A formidable expert on Paropsine Beetles he has given many a fascinating talk and provided much advice and information to myself and many others over the years. I have relied on his unassuming expertise and support during these years.

Ian Endersby has been treasurer for over a decade but has also been someone so careful and competent that he always brought zeal bordering on the accountant. Not bad for an engineer. In his other role as 'Public Officer' Ian has written significant PR and information pamphlets on behalf of our society including a very useful one on 'Collecting and Sampling Insects' (2002) available to all members. Ian has also faithfully attended the 'Science Talent Search Competitions', been active on the Zoo Le Souëf committees, chaired meetings when I could not, chaired the AGMs every year, and did so with proper formality lightened by his inimitable wit and good humour. He has offered lifts to other members; suggested, then contacted, between half to most of the speakers that the membership has enjoyed. He has been a crucial and much appreciated support and friend to me during my time as president.

David Stewart has come to council meetings to help us problem-solve, to provide us with his wealth of entomological knowledge from his vast array of tertiary studies - and his long experience with the society - from very long distances. He is like the proverbial postman - he travels to us through snow and sleet as well as heat of day. Determination, thy name is David Stewart.

Jan Tinetti often works a 12-hour day as a school teacher and commuter and she comes to every meeting, often worse for the wear, but takes minutes as if her very life depended on it. She has answered correspondence and contributed to the life and times of our council meetings as all the other members.

Peter Carwardine has also maintained his dedication through numerous job changes and personal troubles. Always a person of great social warmth despite his trials, Peter brings his considerable

years of experience to each meeting. He has also patiently fulfilled the post of "Excursion Secretary" - a post he fills with relish, creativity and commitment. I think it is safe to say that Peter is a local legend for us. Ray McPherson - who was also a council member for many years - was also a dedicated and lively contributor, and was never short of a quip or useful suggestion, and made these with warmth and eccentric humour.

I mention each of these people because I know most of the membership do not know these people, or certainly have little idea of the efforts and work put in by them for the membership. I worry that people are not given the credit they are due when doing volunteer work like this, or at the very least, that they do so much for so many without the barest acknowledgment of their valuable contribution.

On behalf of the society, as your outgoing president, I pay tribute to these volunteer council members and thank each of them on your behalf. I wish the incoming council all the best for what I hope will be even better and brighter years for the society.

Many thanks for your past and continued support of the council.

Same Sex Courtship of *Zizina otis* (Fabricius) in Luzon, Philippines (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Polyommatainae)

Kelvyn L. Dunn
kelvyn_dunn@yahoo.com

Summary

A same-sex courtship of *Zizina otis* (Fabricius) in Luzon, Philippines is described, and then discussed with reference to documented polyommataine lycaenid refusal signals, and compared to a courtship display by *Z. labradus* (Godart) in the South Pacific. Female-mimicking behavior by the passive male is reported in this species for the first time, and justified by reference to earlier published accounts of opposite sex mimicking during mistaken or regular courtships in other butterfly species. Photos (digitised video frames) of both males of *Z. otis* are presented as confirmation of their species and gender. It seems that virtual images can promote flutter response and other refusal signals in some female butterflies (three unpublished examples are given from personal observations) and perhaps males too. However, the behavior described for male *Z. otis* in this study was doubtfully a response to its own reflection, but it still raises issues that pose challenges to refusal interpretation from close-range video-recordings. Finally, it is argued that describing butterfly behavior provides impetus for further ethological reports from other observers. Collectively, from observational field data new grounded-theories on butterfly courtship or other behavior may be induced over time.

Introduction

Most accounts of courtship dances in butterflies involve opposite sexes. Occasionally courtship involves recognition mistakes and can result in mistaken couplings (Dunn 1996, Scott 1973, Shields & Emmel 1973). Male intrasexual (same-sex) examples have been reported earlier by Dunn (2001), de Fleury (1934), Grund (2002), Heitzman (1964), Newman (1946), Rothschild (1911), Shields & Emmel (1973), and Tennent (1994). Of these, very few examples were intra-specific, that is, occurred between males of the same species. Tennent (1987) reported a lycaenid example from Morocco that included coupling attempts, and Grund (2002) illustrated a bizarre coupling within the Australian Satyrinae in which the males had cemented themselves together with sphragis material. Dunn (2001) presented a graphical meta-analysis of over 113 butterfly mating mistakes (using publications as units of analysis) and confirmed a randomized probability of their encounter over the previous 140 years.

Why are mistaken courtships so rarely reported?

Tennent (1994), drawing on over 100 separate published incidences of mistaken courtships and pairings that included some conspecific same-sex examples, intuitively proposed that rather than being rare as popularly believed, such mistakes may actually be 'commonplace'. If these mistakes are less rare than supposed, then why are there relatively so few reports in the World literature, and especially so those involving same sexes? Using Occam's Razor - the philosophical principle that the simplest explanation for an observed phenomenon is most likely to be the right one - then the answer presumably stems from the supposition that most field observers simply overlook or misinterpret the few they chance encounter!

Some recent narrative entomological literature would seem to support the explanation of focussed collector attention rather than mere coincidence or random probability as the driving impetus in observing unusual events, although these factors are still largely involved. Drawing collector awareness toward specific phenomena through the literature should thus increase the probability of observer recognition - and indeed, the introductory paragraph in Grund (2002) is powerful confirmation that this is happening. Tennent (1994) also remarks upon having read of mistaken pairings and encountering some soon after! Moreover, the same educative process had focussed my childhood field recognition of unusual phenomena such as gynandromorphism with similar result (Dunn & Dunn 1991 p.11). Nevertheless, some unusual couplings or courtships are especially likely to be overlooked by assumptive bias where the sexes are very similar. And again, Grund (2002) provides narration that supports this. Abundant and unmistakable species are not

usually captured for routine examination of their sexes, and similarly, the *Z. otis* courtship described below was reasoned in the field to involve opposite sexes. Fortuitously, with video technology and associated digital software this same-sex courtship was confirmed and without the need to capture the adults.

Thus, qualitative naturalistic studies describing unusual species behavior can educate and promote further observations as well as add to a growing knowledge base on butterfly species' sexual behavior. Indeed, I believe that documenting butterfly behavior can be an important adjunct to taxonomy, and moreover, from such simple 'fact gathering' observations, new grounded-theories on courtship and mating can in time be induced.

A descriptive study from video

The rejection dance captured on 29.60 seconds of analog videotape is described below. Digitisation was achieved using Pinnacle Systems *StudioDC10plus™* (Version 1.06, 2000) software for analog video. At a capture rate of 25 digital frames per second, each frame thus represents 0.04 seconds of behavior. Times given for specific activities are based on frame counts. The courtship behavior documented below was earlier shown and discussed during a presentation titled, *Mindanao and Luzon: The Philippines. Butterflies of Asia series*, at the General Meeting of the Entomological Society of Victoria, on 14 December 2001 (see Minute corrections: *Victorian Entomologist* 32:17). The four figures of *Z. otis* presented are digitised frames from that video. These notes and photos provide a more permanent record of the event, and also make it available to a wider audience through time than could my video presentation in Melbourne.

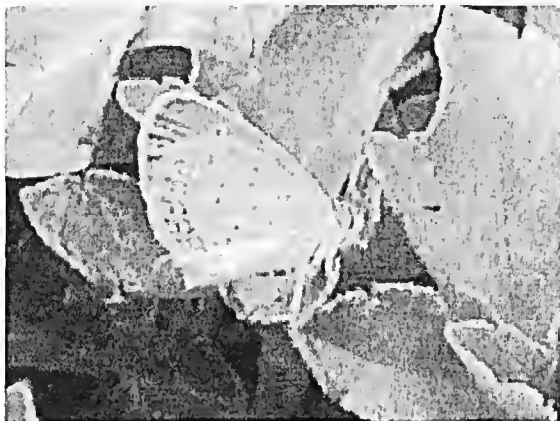


Figure 1. Passive male in 'female refusal stance' showing underside and confirming species identification as *Zizina otis* (Fab.).

Courtship observations

Locality: near Manila airport, Paranaque, Manila, Luzon, PHILIPPINES (PILIPINAS).

Exact Observation site: within grounds of Nayong Pilipino complex.

Habitat: grassy field in parkland.

Date: 7 November 1999, time: 2:10pm PHT (1410h) [PHT = GMT+0800h]

Weather: lightly overcast and hot; temp: c.32°C

Two adults seen flying low down over herbs and lawn grasses. Passive male quickly landed on foliage of herb, with wings held closed above thorax. (Video commenced) (Figure 1). Active male pursued and

landed about 3cm behind passive male. Active male held wings opened in wide-V, characteristic of basking stance but with forewings edged forward in display stance (Figure 2). Both adults faced more or less in the same direction (Figure 3). Light breeze caused slight flapping movement of active male's wings but none to the passive male's wings.



Figure 2. Active male of *Z. otis* in courtship display stance

After 11 seconds submissive male flicked wings twice (Figure 4). Both wing-flicks took 0.08 seconds (2 frames) each, from closed to closed position. Time interval between the two consecutive flicks was 0.56 seconds. During first flick both fore- and hind-wings opened about 90° in a V-shape, but during second flick, wings opened to about 60°. To the unaided eye, however, these rapid wings movements were just detectable as a quick flickering of the forewing tips and no internal coloring could be recognised at this speed.

Whilst passive male wing-flicked, active male flew and relocated about 10-12cm behind passive male, facing slightly to the left. Active male again in basking stance - wings held in wide-V but with forewings extended forward. Active male rotated on spot nearly 180° to face about 150° away from direction of submissive male. Wings held in display stance during pivot. Active male flapped wings once - this was not a wing 'flick', being three times slower. The wing-flap took 0.24 seconds. During wing-flap, wings were raised into narrow-V, but not closed. Active male flapped again (flap duration: 0.28 seconds), and after pause of 0.72 seconds, flapped wings to become airborne. Active male flew and relocated within 8cm of passive male. Passive male then flew off by 'jumping' out of frame with wings closed - minimal wing movement during take-off. (Video ended). Observations not continued.

Discussion

The male of *Z. otis* in South-East Asia has a broad forewing and narrower hindwing terminal band and is easily distinguished from the sombre female which lacks the expansive blue central areas to both wings (Corbet & Pendlebury 1992). Frame by frame examination of the wing-flicks revealed that the passive adult (Figure 1) was actually male (Figure 4), indeed, with a slightly narrower forewing terminal band than the active male (Figures 2,3). Thus a preliminary same-sex courtship refusal had been video-recorded.



Figure 3. *Z. otis* active male (lower) displaying to passive male (upper)

As mentioned before, initially during filming it was thought that a routine male-female courtship refusal was taking place. Much of the behavior was typical of polyommataine refusal courtship: (1) soliciting (active) adult situated behind and facing courted (passive) adult (compare with figure 5); (2) female refusal signals given by courted adult; and (3), two repeat attempts by soliciting adult to inspect courted adult. The courting (active) male on his second and third wooing displays, however, remained a little farther behind than might be expected in a polyommataine heterosexual encounter (Dunn 2002). He also made no attempt to land aside, nor attempt to couple as sometimes occurs during heterosexual refusals in this (Dunn 2001a) and other butterfly groups (Dunn 2003). As an example, at Natadola Beach, Fiji [Viti Levu] a male of the Pacific congener *Z. labradus* displayed (Figure 5), with forewings similarly extended forward (compare Fig. 5 with Fig. 2) to a female. During the display the female wiggled her closed hindwings in characteristic 'figure 8' pattern - a common polyommataine behavior (Parsons 1998), but in the tail-less genus *Zizina*, probably a purposeless relict activity retained from a tailed ('false-headed') ancestral species. The male then flew at the female and fluttered about her antennae, but the female departed within a second of the male's frontal approach. Both sexes in the courtship (Figure 5) on Viti Levu were also similarly placed in terms of distance (about 4cm apart) and stance to the male-male display in Manilla (Fig. 5 cf. Fig. 3), again circumstantial evidence that the latter is indeed also courtship.

Moreover, the male-male behavioral sequence was unlike familiar male territorial behavior, and cannot be dismissed as two males merely sharing a territory, coincidentally landing, or selectively landing near each other as occurs towards dusk in some roosting polyommataines such as, for example, *Zizula hylax* in Rarotonga, Polynesia (pers. obs.). Personal observations in recent years of *Z. otis* throughout much of South East Asia suggest it is, like its sibling *Z. labradus* in Australia (pers. obs.), Melanesia (pers. obs.) and central Polynesia (pers. obs.), predominantly a patrolling species that perches for only short periods and challenges all passing rivals. In patrolling species, the male approaches and courts the resting female (Scott 1973). Territorial interactions in patrollers such as *Zizina* species usually involve adults flying rapidly about each other, then quickly separating to continue either routine patrolling of the larval hosts or to return to perch sites to briefly rest before resuming. In neither species have I previously observed males to flick their wings whilst at rest, basking or when perched. This form of flutter response seems confined to courtship refusal (pers. obs.).

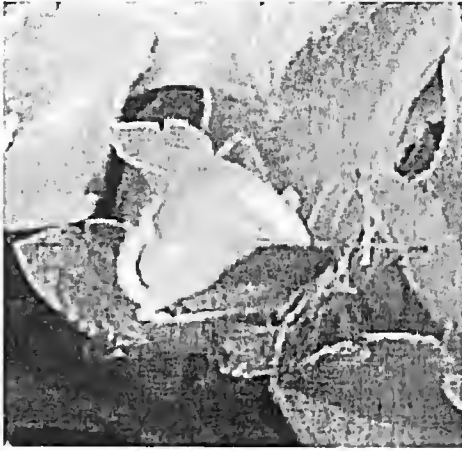


Figure 4. Passive male of *Z. otis* - sex clearly identifiable - giving 'female wing flick' refusal signal to soliciting male, below and behind (outside frame). Single frame (0.04 seconds) of rapid wing-flicking signal activity. This frame demonstrates male opened wings more fully than detectable by the human eye. Visually it appeared merely as a 'quiver' of the forewing tips in the field during filming. Note difference in placement of forewing anal margin compared with displaying male (Figures 2,3)

Since many female butterflies across broad taxonomic groups give refusal signals by wing movements (Scott 1973), it is suspected that wing-flicking is a common female refusal behavior in polyommattines including *Z. otis*. In Australian Polyommattinae, the female of *Psychonotus caelius* uses wing-flicking to deter the courting male (Dunn 2001a), and in North Africa rather similar behavior (vibrating wings, including raised abdomen) occurs in *Cyaniris semiargus* (Tennent 1987). Nevertheless, in at least two other Australian polyommattines the roles are reversed. In *Caudalides consimilis* the courting male licks his wings at the refusing female which remains still (Dunn 2002), and similarly in *Nacaduha cyanea* the male fans beside the quiescent female (Dunn 2002a).

It is long known that during same-sex courtships males will sometimes mimic female refusal signals to deter the mistaken individual. In captivity, resting males *Pieris brassicae* (Pierinae) sometimes resorted to mimicking the female pierid rejection posture when they could not escape the attention of another male (David & Gardiner 1961), and similarly, Argus males of *Precis coenia* (Nymphalinae) may flutter their wings to mimic their females' rejection dance (Scott 1973). Moreover, sometimes the rejection behavior of a female butterfly mimics the courtship behavior of the male. Parsons (1998 p.86) commented that this was "probably in order to deceive the male that it is courting another male." Once again, this could make recognising a same-sex courtship in such species challenging, particularly where the sexes are closely similar. I have yet to encounter or recognise examples of females using this strategy in the Indo-Australasian region.



Figure 5. Male of sibling species *Z. labradus* (Godart) (bottom of frame) displaying to camouflaged, closed-winged, refusing female (top of frame), resting on dry grass stems at Natadola Beach, west of Sigatoka on Viti Levu, FIJI, 24 January 2003, c.1530h FJT [FJT=GNIT+1200h]. Note similar stance and spatiality of adults to same-sex courtship observed in the Philippines (cf. fig.3).

Interestingly, resting female polyommatae and other butterfly groups can sometimes be artificially induced to flick their wings or give species' appropriate refusal signals in the absence of real males or other real adults. At Kuranda, N Queensland, a settled female of *Udara tenella* (Polyommatae) being still-photographed in the field commenced a sequence of similar refusal-like signals over an extended period (a minute or so), seemingly in response to its own reflection in a closely held lens attached to a camera. There was no suitor in close proximity. The virtual image, however, would have appeared as another adult settled with wings closed on a leaf above and to its rear. Similar to other post-refusal females, when the reflection was removed, the normally alert and wary adult became quiescent and temporarily reluctant to fly - atypical behavior of perched adults except when courted (pers. obs.). Refusal behavior was also accidentally induced in a skipper female of *Taractrocerina ina* (Hesperiinae) at Hervey Bay, SE Queensland. This female skipper repeatedly vibrated her wings, interspersed with occasional brief pauses, during very close-up videotaping in the field - the reflective videocam lens (diameter 43mm) having been held within a few centimetres of her when the behavior commenced. On other occasions in the presence of the same very closely held lens, two females of *Ypthima sesara* (Satyrinae) both separately video-recorded initially basking at Colo-I-Suva Forest (11km north of Suva, Viti Levu), Fiji, subsequently opened their wings widely and raised their abdomens slightly. The females maintained these refusal poses for extended periods apparently in response to the virtual image in the lens. Again, on each occasion there was no real suitor in close proximity.

It seems refusal behavior can be stimulated with a 43mm diameter lens during very close-up photography (held within 30cm) in at least some butterflies of varied families so this previously unrecognised phenomenon may be widespread. Given this, it could then be countered that the male-male courtship described for the passive male of *Z. otis* was merely a response to its own virtual image and not the active male nearby as proposed. Even so this would still represent a same-sex response; the courtship was already in process upon discovery and filmed after the fact, excluding, beyond reasonable doubt, reflection inducement as the primary cause, but perhaps not eliminating it has a secondary promoter of extended response and prolonged quiescence. Response to virtual images may create issues that pose challenges to interpretation of video-recorded refusal behaviors.

Lastly, and curiously, it was not detectable how the passive male was finally propelled into flight without discernible wing movement prior to or during take-off (wings seemed to remain more or less closed). Immensely rapid and powerful departures such as this one, evidently far beyond a frame speed of 0.04 seconds (25 fps/hertz), made the adult visually inconspicuous. This 'vanishing act' may be a rapid escape flight used to elude persistent pursuers or would-be predators, and perhaps then a 'phenomenological' response to the presence of a closely held camera rather than routine, courtship refusal, departure-flight velocity.

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Some New Butterfly Observations for the Lower Southeast Region of South Australia.

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On Thursday 6 March 2003 at the Penambol Conservation Park in the Lower Southeast Region of South Australia, I observed a Bright Shield-skipper (*Signeta flammeata* Hesperiiidae) performing a 'baffling' act.

I was undertaking a guided butterfly tour along a designated Pollard Walk within the park with local Home School children and mothers (17 in all) when I spotted this skipper zipping about and eventually landing on a leaf of a Coastal bearded-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus* Epacridaceae). At this point, I was approximately 5m from the skipper and I proceeded to walk closer, encouraging the rest of the group to follow. At closer inspection (< 2m) and with digital camera in hand, I began explaining to the group that "This butterfly is a Bright Shield-skipper, but what is it doing? It's certainly performing something I've never seen before". The skipper was busily bending its abdomen around and touching a moist bird dropping on a leaf and at the same time probing the dropping with its proboscis (Fig. 1). The proboscis remained attached to the dropping during the entire time we watched (1-2min). We also witnessed it bending its abdomen around on several occasions. By this time many faces were peering at it and photographs had been taken. I could not explain this action to the children so we continued on our way and finished the remainder of the walk.

Subsequently, I consulted local butterfly expert Roger Grund on the matter and he replied with a confirmation on the identity of the skipper (probably a male due to the narrow angle of the forewing apex) and advice on what the skipper was doing, and he further suggested a literature search on the matter would be appropriate. I consulted the literature, which provided information indicating that this dung feeding habit was common for some butterfly species, particularly Emperors (Nymphalidae), that sought nutrients from various unusual sources including fermenting juices and fresh animal dung (Braby 2000, Common and Waterhouse 1981, Rainbow 1907). Braby (2000) also describes how males of the Turquoise Emperor (*Apaturina erminea*) have been observed feeding on bird droppings, but more significantly Lyell's Swift (*Pelopidas lyelli* Hesperiiidae) has been reported imbibing fluid from its anal droplets placed on dry bird dung. Atkins (1996) observed a male Green Awl (*Hasora discolor matusia*) imbibe fluid from various substrates including human skin. A further observation (although not in Australia) includes that of Puccetti (1995) whereby a male Rhee Swift (*Borbo bevaui*) deposited anal droplets and imbibed fluid from dried reptile excreta on a brick wall. These skippers and butterflies are tropical species.

During my observations of the male *S. flammeata* I did not observe anal droplets being applied to the bird dung however with the bending of the abdomen towards the substrate on several occasions I cannot discount that this occurred.

One other interesting feature of this observation was that the skipper appeared to be totally pre-occupied with what it was doing. We were less than 1m away and it was not frightened. Braby (2000) mentions this totally ensconced pre-occupation is common in Emperors when feeding in such a manner.

On 25 March 2003 I came across a large number of *Anisynta cynone cynone* Hesperiiidae, near the beach at Kingston. The large numbers in flight were a heartening sight considering no sightings have been reported in this region since 1940 (Grund and Hunt 2000, and Sands and New 2002).

On several occasions I observed individuals perched on the wide blade of Coast sword-sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum* Cyperaceae) sunning themselves with wings wide open flat. The habitat along this stretch of coastline was regenerating coastal sedgeland dominated by False eaper (*Euphorbia peplus* Euphorbiaceae) and Sea spurge (*Euphorbia paralis*). The skippers flew close to the ground darting amongst the low vegetation which Braby (2000) indicates is a common habit of this species.

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Roger Grund for his identification and helpful advice on the unusual actions of the Bright Shield-skipper and in the preparation of this paper, and to Peter Penney for assistance in sourcing reference material.

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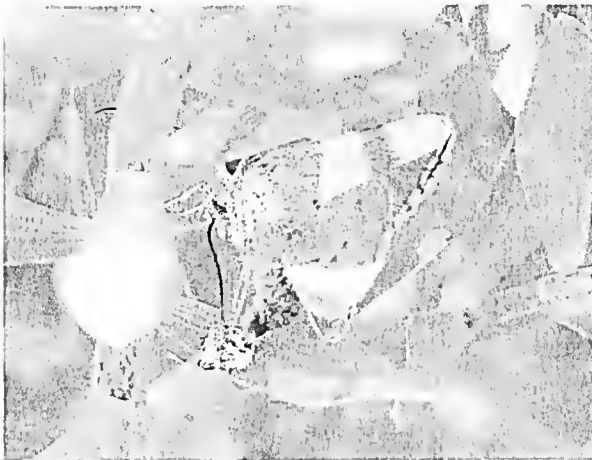


Fig 1. *Signeta flammeata* probing a bird dropping with its proboscis and anal region

A Man Who Loved Nature

by David Holmes

Archibald Charles May (Archie), was born in London on September 7, 1908, was the eldest of three children. He came to Australia with his family in 1924 at the age of 16.

Archie was educated at two Grammar schools in England but was not fond of school. As he preferred the country life where he could study nature – especially the birds and insects. He had already collected a box of butterflies in England and brought them out to Australia. He still had that box when I last visited him.

He helped his father on farms before travelling to Bairnsdale and then picked fruit in Mildura. There he made a canoe from galvanised iron and paddled down the Murray to Morgan in South Australia. Quite an adventure for those days. He travelled to the Flinders Ranges where he met with RM Williams who made his first pair of leather boots. They stayed with an aboriginal community at Nepperbunna near Copley for three months where he lived off the land. Much of their diet was rabbits and wheat.

After returning to Victoria he helped his father for a time on a dairy farm then moved once again to Cann River. There he bought his first box of bees and, being a good year for blossom, it wasn't long before he was making lots of money. He then purchased super boxes, 'one box on top of another' increasing the size of his hives. He lived in a tent for quite a while taking the bees to various places.

He bought 400 acres of bushland at Noorinbee where he built his house. There he was able to entertain his visitors –bird lovers and field naturalists who camped along his lovely creek, which, as a bonus, had a small waterfall. He planted Buddleias around the house that attracted many rare butterflies and moths, especially the Skippers.

The house was festooned with all sorts of novelties he had discovered on his yearly winter trips to far north Queensland that included fossilised wood, large seedpods. A few years ago he sent me a tape of bird calls and night noises which he had recorded. Knowing the animals that made the noises made them especially interesting. I sent it back to him when he accidentally recorded over the top of his own copy.

Many collectors went to see him and many others exchanged. Because of the strategic area of sub-tropical Noorinbee he caught many rare and unusual moths and butterflies. When he was 76 he caught Ross River fever and wanted to pass his collection on to me. He thought he was finished and sold his bees. I persuaded him to keep his collection. It was not until he became blind many years later that he rang for me to collect it. The insects were in his garage and he could no longer see them. I agreed to take them before they became infected with parasites and indeed was just in time. I re-pinned them on stainless steel pins and reset many.

The butterfly collection, which included many rare ones, is now with my own in the Melbourne Museum. The moths are also in the Melbourne collection.

Archie did not record any collection data, much to the consternation of other collectors who repeatedly asked him to do so. We can only use a time span of approximately 1930 to 1970 as the collecting history. He was not scientific but he was a good collector. His specimens will be a source of interest to lepidopterists well into the future.

Archie died on the 23 December 2002. A good man. A man who loved nature.

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CONTENTS

	Page
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 23 November 2002	33
Minutes of General Meeting, 21 February 2003	33
Minutes of Council Meeting, 21 March 2003	34
Kellehear, A. The 2003 Presidential Address The Entomological Society of Victoria. The past five years and the next five years	36
Dunn, K.L. Same Sex Courtship of <i>Zizina otis</i> (Fabricius) in Luzon, Philippines (Lepidoptera: Lycaenidae: Polyommatainae)	42
Haywood, B.T. Some New Butterfly Observations for the Lower Southeast Region of South Australia.	50
Holmes, D. A Man who Loved Nature	52

DIARY OF COMING EVENTS

Friday 20 June General Meeting:

Ian Faithfull of Keith Turnbull Research Institute
will present a talk on "Scarab Beetles"

Friday 18 July Council Meeting

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